

HCPF OPENING STATEMENT: LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE HEARING ON STATEWIDE SINGLE AUDIT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENVER – March 11, 2014 – Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Executive Director Susan E. Birch B.S.N., R.N., M.B.A and members of her staff testified today before the Legislative Audit Committee regarding the Statewide Single Audit findings. Below are Director Birch's opening remarks.

"Good morning Chairman King, Vice Chair Guzman and members of the Committee. In today's hearing we will address the findings of the Statewide Single Audit related to our Department and provide you with an update as requested on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Colorado.

For the first time in 11 years, we did not have a single audit finding related to Medicaid Eligibility. This is due to the hard work our county partners, staff and eligibility sites have done to improve our application processing. Continuing to be diligent about improving both Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) processing to better serve applicants and clients is and will continue to remain a high priority for the Department. We will continue to work with our county and community partners to further improve our processes and training for eligibility sites. You will hear about these efforts later in the hearing. This is critically important in the context of our Medicaid coverage expansion and the high volume of applications we have been receiving since implementing federal and state health reform laws including the Affordable Care Act.

While it won't be a focus today given the timeframe of the audit (SFY 2012-13), it is worth noting that we have recently been through a transformation in the way we do business. Because of investments made in our technology infrastructure, including significant enhancements to our online self-service portal Colorado.gov/PEAK and to the portal our eligibility workers use to process applications, CBMS, we have been able to handle 6-9 times the application volume and still timely process new applications more than 90% of the time. We are committed to continuous improvement and you'll hear more about some of the enhancements that allow us to more efficiently and effectively serve the more than 950,000 clients now on our public health insurance programs during the Affordable Care Act Implementation update at the end of the hearing.

Now I'll hand it over to our individual subject matter experts to walk through the findings and give you updates on how we are addressing each finding. As you will hear in the following updates, we have either addressed or have a plan in place to address the findings."

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About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income Coloradans who qualify. The mission of the department is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources. For more information about the department, please visit <u>Colorado.gov/hcpf</u>.